Entitlement of States to modify schemes under NREGA

732. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been made applicable to all the districts in the country;

(b) if not, by which date the act will be made applicable to the uncovered districts;

(c) whether the state Governments are entitled to modify the scheme under the Act to make it more effective, as per the situations prevailing in the States;

(d) if so, to what extent the scheme can be modified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched in 200 districts with effect from 2.2.2006. The Scheme was extended to 130 additional districts with effect from 1.4.2007. The Government has notified all the remaining rural areas of the country for coverage under NREGS with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) to (e) In accordance with Section 4 (1) of NREG Act, every State Government is required to frame a Scheme, within one year from the date of enactment of the Act, for providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas covered under the Scheme and whose adult members, by application, volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Scheme so framed, must provide for the minimum features and facilities as specified in Schedule I and II of the Act respectively.

Transparency and public participation in NREG Programme

733. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has called for transparency and public participation to ensure the success of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in most of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that some States are not implementing the scheme in letter and spirit and diverting funds meant for the scheme for other purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government would take steps to monitor the implementation of the rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure the success of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the Union Government has called for transpareny and public participation in its implementaiton. The details are as under:

(1) Transparency

(i) States have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. Social Audit has been done in 53911 Gram Panchayats.

(ii) A Citizen Information Board has been introduced. This board is to be displayed at all prominent places. This will enable the local community to know the works being undertaken under NREGA and would also facilitate the process of spreading awareness about the programme.

(2) People's Participation

(i) Village level monitoring committee have been set up and trained.

(ii) Non Governmental Organisations are being involved for awareness generation under NREGA.

(iii) Gram Sabhas are held.

(c) Yes, Sir. CAG has conducted performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in 68 districts of 26 States on a request made by the Ministry. In the draft report submitted to the Ministry, CAG has reported 34 cases regarding financial matters. These relate to instances of use of funds for non permissible activities/ineligible persons/agencies and unaccounted expenditure. These have been shared with the State Governments. The States have also given their responses to the observations made by CAG in the draft report. These have been sent to CAG for their consideration.

(d) Government has taken the following steps to monitor the implementation of the rural development schemes.

(i) Performance Review Committee meetings are undertaken by the Minister of Rural Development and Secretary (Rural Development) from time to time.

(ii) Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up at State as well as district levels.

(iii) Natioanl Level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the schemes.

Steps to end corruption in NREG scheme

†734. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG had examined National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in seventy districts; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would order enquiry into the conduct of officers who submitted forged documents and fabricated data and an NGO who embezzled funds;

(c) the decisions taken in the meeting of Secretaries;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to end corruption in NREG scheme;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.